

**JEFFERY et al**  
**U.S. National Phase of PCT/GB2004/003331**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please insert the Abstract of the Disclosure which is on the attached sheet.

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system (20) and method by virtue of which a preferred data provider is selected from a plurality of data providers (30) by performing the steps of receiving a request for data from a client (10) together with client identification data, identifying a plurality of data providers (30) capable of providing data to the client (10), providing the client identification data to the data providers and instructing the data providers to perform tests in order to establish a measure of the elapsed time for a signal to be sent to and received from the client, and a measure indicative of their remaining capacity for data transfer, and to make these measures available to the system (20). One or more preferred data providers (30) may then be selected on the basis of the elapsed time signals and the remaining capacity signals from said data providers.